

Indoor Electrical Safety Tips

- Replace cords that are damaged or frayed.
- Never place cords under carpet or rugs.
- Extension cords are only for temporary use. Prolonged use of extension cords can cause overheating and result in a possible fire.
- Because water makes it easier for you to become an electrical path to the ground, use extreme caution when using electricity around water.
- Never reach for an appliance that has fallen into water. DO NOT unplug appliances that have fallen into water. Turn the power off at the breaker before you unplug the appliance or remove it from the water.
- DO NOT turn on an appliance that is sitting on a damp counter.
- DO NOT touch a switch if your hands are wet.
- Turn off appliances used near the sink after each use.
- DO NOT set a radio or telephone on the edge of the bathtub or sink.
- DO NOT use a hair dryer when your hands are wet or when you are standing on a damp floor or in a wet tub or shower.
- Unless an appliance is labeled “immersible,” don’t put it in water to wash it.
- If you continually replace fuses, reset circuit breakers, hear unusual buzzing sounds, see sparks or flickering lights, you may have a problem with the electrical wiring in your home. Contact a licensed electrical contractor to perform an inspection and make any necessary repairs.
- Always use the correct ampere rated fuses or circuit breakers. Incorrect amperage can cause power outages or fires in your home. If you are unsure of which amperage fuse or breaker to use, contact a licensed electrician.
- Practice safe electricity usage throughout your home.
- DO NOT overload outlets. Using multiple plug-in adapters or power strips could cause a fire.
- If an electric appliance smells hot or buzzes, don’t touch it or try to unplug it. Turn off the electricity at the circuit breaker and unplug it.
- Avoid the risk of fire by using the manufacturer’s suggested wattage for light bulbs in lamps, lighting fixtures and all other appliances.
- Use extreme caution with halogen lamps. Place them away from curtains or other flammable materials.
- Keep space heaters away from flammable materials like curtains, rugs or newspapers. Only use UL-listed space heaters, and always operate space heaters to the manufacturer’s specifications.
- In areas of your home where shock is a greater potential—such as the kitchen and bathrooms, laundry rooms, porches and patios—consider installing Ground

Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in your main electrical panel, or have GFCIs installed in those specific rooms. These safety devices reduce the risk of electrocution.

- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when operating heating pads and electric blankets.
- Use caution and always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using electric appliances around children.
- Ensure outlet safety with children by using outlet covers or plastic outlet caps.

Outdoor Electrical Safety Tips

- If you see a downed power line, contact Rocky Mount Public Utilities at **(252) 467-4800** immediately. DO NOT touch the line or anything that is in contact with the line. DO NOT attempt to move the line. Keep others away.
- When using an aluminum ladder, check above you for power lines. Aluminum is an exceptionally good conductor of electricity. If you touch a power line with an aluminum ladder, you could be seriously injured or killed.
- When working on a roof, which may put you close to an overhead power line, avoid standing up and accidentally touching a line with your head or shoulder.
- When moving antennas, metal gutters or other long metal objects, ensure that they don't inadvertently touch a power line.
- Never attempt to move an object (tree limb, kite, model airplane, etc.) from a power line yourself. Never climb the pole. If there is an obstruction on the line, contact Rocky Mount Public Utilities at **(252) 467-4800**.
- When house painting, ensure that nothing, including you, your ladder, your paintbrush or roller, comes in contact with the power line supplying electricity to your home.
- When pruning trees with a long-handled pruning instrument, especially a metal one, check above you to avoid touching a power line or any limbs that are growing into power lines. **Click here** to see how to properly trim trees (this should link to the Tree Trimming page)
- Keep away from transformers. They are generally green and mounted on concrete slabs, and are found where there are underground power lines.
- Never attempt to open the door of one of these transformers. If you find a door unlocked, call Rocky Mount Public Utilities at **(252) 467-4800** immediately.
- Because water makes it easier for you to become an electrical path to the ground, use extreme caution when using electricity around water.

- DO NOT use power tools while the ground is wet or while standing in water.
- DO NOT touch an electrical appliance while in a pool or hot tub.
- DO NOT touch any electrical appliances while in the bathtub or shower.
- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets are weatherproofed and protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). This device is designed to protect you from electrical shock.
- DO NOT touch a victim who's in contact with a power line.
- DO NOT touch anything that's in contact with the victim.
- DO NOT attempt to move the power line.
- Call 911.
- If a victim, who is not in contact with the power line, is not breathing or has no pulse, call 911. If you are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), begin immediately.